

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota Office of the Governor

Whereas, Twenty-five years ago it was recognized that many rural residents throughout much of our state did not have the same access to critical care as people who lived in larger cities; and,

Whereas, McKennan Hospital founded the Careflight air ambulance program in 1986 based on a goal to offer faster transport to critical care facilities for people living in outlying areas, therefore saving lives; and,

Whereas, Careflight began with one helicopter, providing transport from medical facilities or accident scenes within a 125-mile radius of Sioux Falls. Fixed wing services were added in 1995 to fly at higher speeds and greater distances; and,

Whereas, The Careflight helicopter and fixed wing aircraft are literally airborne Intensive Care Units, staffed by professionals highly trained in critical care; and,

Whereas, Having met stringent standards and criteria, Careflight is accredited by CAMTS, the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Services; and,

Whereas, Careflight averages 1,200 flights per year, with approximately 15 percent of those flights to the scene of accidents and the other 85 percent transports from area hospitals. All are patients who need to get to a tertiary care center quickly for life-saving treatment:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim August 12, 2011, as

CAREFLIGHT DAY

and I join the people of South Dakota in congratulating the staff of Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center and the Careflight team for reaching this milestone of 25 years of service.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-eighth Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eleven.

Dennis Daugaard
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Judy A. Larson, Exec. Asst.
Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State